

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-13 and 15-22 were rejected, and claim 14 was objected to. No claims have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-22 remain active in the application. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

**Specification**

The specification has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Le et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,711,164, ("Le").

Applicants wish to "swear behind" the Le reference. Although the November 5, 1999 effective filing date for 102(e) purposes of Le predates the effective filing date of the present application (present application filed March 31, 2000), Applicants conceived of the invention prior to the November 5, 1999 effective filing date of Le and then were diligent in reducing the concept to practice up until the time the patent application was filed on March 31, 2000. Attached is a Section 131 Declaration signed by one of the inventors of the present application that attests to prior conception of the present invention as well as an invention disclosure dated July 7, 1999.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le in view of Westberg, U.S. Patent No. 6,041,054, ("Westberg").

Applicants wish to "swear behind" the Le reference.

Claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le.

Applicants wish to "swear behind" the Le reference.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants wish to "swear behind" the Le reference.

**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-22 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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